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ABSTRACT

Censorship is the removal, suppression, or restricted circulation of literary, artistic, or educational material--of images, ideas, and information--on the grounds that these are morally or otherwise objectionable in the light of standards applied by the censor. Few in our society advocate the banning of all but a tiny handful of materials from sale, circulation, or display to adults; however, the commitment to free expression is not so clear where minors are concerned, and the picture becomes more clouded still when the issue of schooling enters. The purpose of education is not only to communicate factual information, but to develop in the young the ability to discriminate and choose. This, of necessity, involves some selective transmission of values. As a resource providing educators and citizens with essential information to help them deal effectively with censorship challenges and academic freedom, this document covers: (1) censorship in the schools; (2) areas of conflict; (3) disputed issues; (4) establishing selection policies; (5) general crisis preparation and coping methods; (6) basic principles of the censorship laws; and (7) a school system checklist. Appended are interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights, various samples and guidelines concerning censorship policies, and summaries of selected legal cases. (130 references) (KM)

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